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ACTION EAP-00

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	H-01	MSC-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03
	AMAD-01	CTME-00	PM-10	AIT-02	PA-01	CCO-00	OMB-01
	INRE-00	OCS-06	CA-02	FBOE-05	A-00	USSS-00	USIE-00
	SP-02	OC-01	M-01	SR-06	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0312

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AIT TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL SHANGHAI IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL SHENYANG IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CHENGDU POUCH)

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 BEIJING 15683

NIACT IMMEDIATE FOR CHINA WATCH ONLY

NSC FOR DOUG PAAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: PAUL F. GARDNER

DATE/CASE ID: 26 JUN 1998 199604320

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR

TAGS: ASEC, PGOV, PREL, PHUM, SOCI, CH

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SUBJECT: TFCH01--SITREP NO. 38: JUNE 7, 1900 HOURS

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. IN AN APPARENT TROOP ROTATION, A MAJOR
TROOP CONVOY HEADED WEST THIS MORNING OUT OF THE
CITY. FIRING SHOTS AS IT WENT, THE CONVOY HIT
SEVERAL APARTMENTS IN THE JIANGUOMENWAI DIPLOMATIC
COMPOUND WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. IN THE EARLY

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AFTERNOON, TROOPS SEALED OFF THE DIPLOMATIC COMPOUND IN ORDER TO CAPTURE A SUSPECTED SNIPER WHO HAD FLED THERE. AN EMBASSY CONVOY PICKED UP 55 AMERICANS TODAY FROM THE UNIVERSITY AREA AND DELIVERED THEM TO THE AIRPORT. THE SITUATION IN CHENGDU WAS CALM AS OF 1400 HOURS LOCAL, BUT THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAS ADVISED AMERICANS THERE TO LEAVE CHINA AND MOST HAVE RESERVATIONS FOR FLIGHTS OUT THIS WEEK. END SUMMARY.

SHOOTING IN THE JIANGUOMENWAI AREA

3. AT ABOUT 1000 HOURS LOCAL AS THE AMBASSADOR WAS CONVENING A GENERAL STAFF MEETING REGARDING EVACUATION PLANS, POLMILOFF WEST OF THE JIANGUO HOTEL OBSERVED TROOPS MOVING EAST FROM THE DIRECTION OF TIANANMEN SQUARE TOWARD THE HOTEL IN THE JIANGUOMENWAI AREA. SOLDIERS IN THE FIRST FIVE OR SIX TRUCKS IN THE CONVOY SHOUTED SLOGANS SUCH AS: "PROTECT THE PEOPLE; PROTECT THE STUDENTS; UNITY IS STRENGTH." SHORTLY THEREAFTER, TROOPS IN TRUCKS AS FAR BACK AS THE CITIC BUILDING OPENED FIRE. THE SHOTS APPEARED TO BE AIMED AT OR ABOVE ROOFTOPS, BUT SOLDIERS LOWERED THEIR SIGHTS (BUT DID NOT FIRE) AT ANY SPECTATORS WHO DID NOT COWER IMMEDIATELY BEHIND

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NEARBY PROTECTIVE COVER. THERE WERE SOME 70 TROOP TRUCKS WITH APPROXIMATELY 25 SOLDIERS IN EACH TRUCK, ONE PETROLEUM TRUCK, AND FOUR OR FIVE SUPPLY TROLLEYS. TWO HELICOPTERS FLEW OVERHEAD.

4. WHEN THE CONVOY HAD PASSED THROUGH THE AREA, ONE PEDESTRIAN SAID THE UNIT WAS FROM SHENYANG AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN IN THE SQUARE ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 3-4. AT AROUND 1015, POLOFF IN THE JIANGUOMENWAI DIPLOMATIC COMPOUND HAD OBSERVED THE SAME CONVOY PASSING OVER THE JIANGUOMENWAI OVERPASS. HEAVY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE, APPARENTLY AIMED IN THE AIR, WAS HEARD COMING BOTH FROM THE CONVOY BUT ALSO FROM GUANGHUA LU TO THE NORTH. EMBOFFS REPORTED BULLETS SHATTERED THE WINDOWS OF MANY APARTMENTS IN THE JIANGUOMENWAI DIPLOMATIC COMPOUND, INCLUDING IN THREE APARTMENTS BELONGING TO EMBASSY OFFICERS.

5. [REDACTED] PROVIDED DAO WITH A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION OF THE DEPARTING CONVOY. ACCORDING TO THE JOURNALIST, THE 20TH GROUP ARMY UNIT ARRIVED JUNE 6 TO REPLACE THE MUCH-HATED 27TH GROUP ARMY UNIT, WHICH IS LARGELY HELD TO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TIANANMEN SQUARE INCIDENT. THE TROOP ROTATION IS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO IMPROVE

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RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS REPORT.

6. AT APPROXIMATELY 1800 HOURS LOCAL, EMBOFF OBSERVED THE 18 TANKS POSITIONED ON THE JIANGUOMENWAI OVERPASS DEPART TOWARD TIANANMEN SQUARE, LEAVING THE OVERPASS INTERSECTION CLEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DAYS. AS OF 1900 HOURS LOCAL, IT WAS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THE INTERSECTION WOULD REMAIN CLEAR, OR REPLACEMENTS WERE ON THE WAY.

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SUBJECT: TFCH01--SITREP NO. 38: JUNE 7, 1900 HOURS

TROOPS ENCIRCLE DIPLOMATIC COMPOUND

7. AT APPROXIMATELY 1200 HOURS LOCAL, TROOPS BEGAN MOVING INTO THE VICINITY OF THE JIANGUOMENWAI DIPLOMATIC COMPOUND. THEIR MOVEMENTS SUGGESTED THEY MIGHT BE CONDUCTING A SEARCH. AS THE TROOPS BEGAN TO ENCIRCLE THE COMPOUND, A NUMBER OF RUMORS BEGAN TO SURFACE, INCLUDING A REPORT THAT APARTMENTS WERE BEING LOOTED.

8. THE EMBASSY RSO, ACCCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL MARINES, ORGANIZED A NUMBER OF VANS TO REMOVE USG EMPLOYEES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS FROM THE COMPOUND. AT APPROXIMATELY 1330 HOURS LOCAL, THE TROOPS SHUT THE GATES OF THE COMPOUND LOCKING IN 24 USG EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS AND MANY OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS OF THE COMPOUND.

9. AT 1510 HOURS LOCAL, POLOFF REPORTED FROM INSIDE JIANGUOMENWAI THAT THE TROOPS WERE DRAGGING SOMEONE OUT OF THE COMPOUND AND THAT IT HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE TROOPS WOULD SOON REOPEN THE GATES AND DEPART. THEY DID SO ABOUT FIVE MINUTES LATER.

10. BASED ON OUR AND OTHERS' TALKS WITH THE TROOPS, THE INCIDENT MAY HAVE BEGUN WHEN A SNIPER FIRED SHOTS AT TROOPS FROM THE CITIC BUILDING, WHICH IS ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE DIPLOMATIC COMPOUND. THE SNIPER FLED TO JIANGUOMENWAI AND THE TROOPS ENCIRCLED THE COMPOUND IN ORDER TO ENSURE HE DID NOT ESCAPE.

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ESCAPE.

AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH MFA

11. AS REPORTED SEPTEL, IN AN AFTERNOON MEETING WITH VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ZHU, AMBASSADOR LILLEY RAISED THE ISSUE OF PROTECTING AMERICAN CITIZENS IN CHINA AND MFA FACILITATION FOR THE LANDING OF EVACUATION AIRCRAFT IN CHINA. IN ANOTHER MEETING WITH EMBOFFS (SEPTEL), CHINESE AIRLINE AUTHORITIES INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH LANDING RIGHTS FOR EVACUATION AIRCRAFT.

AMERICANS TAKEN TO AIRPORT

12. A CONVOY OF SIX VANS AND ONE CAR DEPARTED

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EMBASSY AT ABOUT 0930 HOURS FOR THE UNIVERSITY AREA. THE CONVOY PICKED UP 55 AMERICAN TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND DEPENDENTS FROM THE AREA AT THE FRIENDSHIP HOTEL AND THE BEIJING NORMAL COLLEGE. THE CONVOY THEN DEPARTED DIRECTLY FOR THE AIRPORT, ARRIVING AROUND NOON.

13. ON THE THIRD RING ROAD AT AROUND 1000 HOURS, EMBOFFS IN THE CONVOY OBSERVED SIX MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY TRUCKS HEADING NORTH. EACH TRUCK CARRIED FIVE HELMETED PERSONNEL WITH ASSAULT RIFLES. EMBOFFS PARTICIPATING IN CONVOYS TO UNIVERSITY AREA HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED ANY ARMED PERSONNEL IN THE NORTHWEST BEIJING AREA.

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CHENGDU

15. AS OF 1400 HOURS LOCAL, THE SITUATION IN THE CITY WAS QUIET, BUT THE CONSULATE GENERAL CONTINUES TO ADVISE U.S. CITIZENS TO LEAVE FOR HONG KONG. MOST AMERICANS WHO WANT TO LEAVE HAVE RESERVATIONS FOR THIS WEEK. THE CG REPORTS THAT IF THE SITUATION HEATS UP, U.S. CITIZENS CAN ALSO EASILY GO TO GUANGZHOU, CONDITIONS THERE PERMITTING.

MFA STATEMENT

16. AS ALREADY REPORTED SEPTEL, ON JUNE 7 THE MFA ISSUED A RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S JUNE 5 STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN CHINA. THE MFA EXPRESSED "PROFOUND REGRET" OVER THE ANNOUNCED U.S. DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO CHINA, REJECTED THE "UNWARRANTED CHARGES" OVER AN INTERNAL CHINESE MATTER, AND SAID THAT PRESSURE ON THE CHINESE

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GOVERNMENT WAS "ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE."

17. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. LILLEY

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